

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Chemtool Fire - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region V

**Subject:** POLREP #6  
Progress  
Chemtool Fire  
C5TM  
Rockton, IL  
Latitude: 42.4718011 Longitude: -89.0646749

**To:** Craig Thomas, EPA R5  
Matt Villicana, USEPA  
Lauren McCarrell, USEPA R5  
Corey Peaslee, USEPA R5  
Cheryl Newton, USEPA R5  
Doug Ballotti, EPA R5  
Tom Short, EPA R5  
Tim Fischer, EPA R5  
Sam Borries, U.S. EPA  
Jason El-Zein, U.S. EPA  
Jim Augustyn, U.S. EPA  
Jaime Brown, U.S. EPA  
Matt Mankowski, U.S. EPA  
Mike Ribordy, U.S. EPA  
John Glover, U.S. EPA  
Kim Churchill, U.S. EPA  
Carolyn Bohlen, U.S. EPA  
HQ EOC, U.S. EPA  
Records Center, U.S. EPA  
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Rachel Linduska, USEPA R5  
Jeff Kelley, USEPA  
James Justice, EPA Region 5  
Rob Kondreck, USEPA R5  
Jason Sewell, Region 05  
Naeha Dixit, EPA R5  
USCG Fund Center, USCG  
Francisco Arcaute, U.S. EPA

**From:** Craig Thomas, On-Scene Coordinator  
**Date:** 6/21/2021  
**Reporting Period:** 6/20/21 to 6/21/21

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	C5TM / Z5TK	<b>Contract Number:</b>	
<b>D.O. Number:</b>		<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	
<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Emergency
<b>Response Lead:</b>	PRP	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	6/14/2021	<b>Start Date:</b>	6/14/2021
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>Completion Date:</b>	
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>		<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	6/14/2021
<b>FPN#:</b>	E21510	<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

#### 1.1.1 Incident Category

Emergency Response

#### 1.1.2 Site Description

The site is located at the Chemtool Incorporated facility in Rockton, Winnebago County, Illinois. At approximately 07:00 on June 14th, several fire departments from Illinois and Wisconsin responded to a large, six-alarm fire at the facility. Chemtool Incorporated manufactures greases, additives, and other fluids. The facility quickly became fully-involved in the fire and had several explosions.

##### 1.1.2.1 Location

The site is located at 1165 Prairie Hill Road in Rockton, Winnebago County, Illinois.

##### 1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

The facility housed several tanks of various greases, oils, additives, and other fluids, that have been or could be consumed in the fire. The smoke plume and runoff from the fire threatens to release contaminants into the atmosphere, as well as potentially discharging the contents of the tanks to the Rock River.

Over a million gallons of crude were stored on the facility. The facility is located approximately 700 feet from the Rock River. Given the large volume of oil in containers with compromised integrity, EPA believes there is substantial threat of discharge of oil to a navigable waterway.

### 1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

On-Scene Coordinators (OSC) Craig Thomas, Matt Villicana, Lauren McCarrell, and Corey Peaslee mobilized to the site on June 14, 2021. On June 14, 2021, at approximately 09:30 hours, EPA Region 5 Phone Duty Officer activated the Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) to respond to the incident. An additional OSC (Robert Kondreck) was deployed 6/16.

According to the Rockton Fire Chief and Potentially Responsible Party (PRP), the fire was discovered at approximately 0700 hours on June 14, 2021. The Rockton Fire Department, Rockford Fire Department, and several other Fire Departments from Illinois and Wisconsin Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) responded to the incident to conduct fire suppression activities.

## 2. Current Activities

### 2.1 Operations Section

#### 2.1.1 Narrative

#### 2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

See Previous POLREPs for activities completed prior to this reporting period.

On Sunday, June 20, 2021, the following activities were completed:

- Lubrizol industrial firefighting contractor continued to use heavy equipment to sift through debris in search of hot spots to extinguish and managing flare ups as they occur.
- Lubrizol environmental contractors continue to perform boom maintenance, fluid recovery with vacuum trucks, and runoff prevention activities.
- EPA START contractors continue to perform air monitoring for particulates (PM2.5 and PM10), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), hydrogen sulfide (H2S), hydrogen cyanide (HCN), sulfur dioxide (SO2), and methylene bisphenyl isocyanate (MDI). Stationary air monitoring was performed at two neighborhoods (North and South) and at the Old Settler's Day festival. Mobile air monitoring was performed at seven locations around the fire location as well as at the Old Settler's Day festival grounds.
- START collected a single sample of debris for polarized light microscopy (PLM) analysis for asbestos fibers.
- Incident command was officially transitioned from the Rockton Fire Department to the Lubrizol Fire Chief.

On Monday, June 21, 2021, the following activities were completed.

- Lubrizol industrial firefighting contractor continued to use heavy equipment to sift through debris in search of hot spots to extinguish and managing flare ups as they occur.
- Lubrizol environmental contractors continue to perform boom maintenance, fluid recovery with vacuum trucks, and runoff prevention activities. Lubrizol environmental contractors also started construction of a clay berm between the property fence line and Interceptor Trench 1.
- EPA START contractors continue to perform air monitoring for particulates (PM2.5 and PM10), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), hydrogen sulfide (H2S), hydrogen cyanide (HCN), sulfur dioxide (SO2), and methylene bisphenyl isocyanate (MDI). Stationary air monitoring was performed at three neighborhoods (North, South, and East). Mobile air monitoring was performed at seven locations around the fire location as well as at the Old Settler's Day festival grounds.
- EPA met with representatives from the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, who are conducting an investigation of the incident.

#### 2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

The RP has been identified as Chemtool Incorporated who is owned by Lubrizol.

#### 2.1.4 Progress Metrics

Waste Stream	Medium	Quantity	Manifest #	Treatment	Disposal

## 2.2 Planning Section

### 2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

USEPA START contractors will continue to provide 24-hour air monitoring support during the response while fire suppression activities are ongoing.

USEPA START contractors also remain prepared to monitor and collect samples from the Rock River, if sheening or any other evidence of a discharge is observed.

Lubrizol industrial firefighting contractors will continue to sift through the debris in search of hot spots and extinguish them.

Lubrizol environmental contractors will continue to perform boom maintenance, fluid recovery with vacuum trucks, and other runoff prevention activities including construction of the clay berm on the west side of the building.

START contractors will collect samples from first 5 frac tanks filled on site, which may contain fire suppression water contaminated with PFAS-containing AFFF.

### 2.2.2 Issues

A large storm occurred during the evening of June 20, 2021 to June 21, 2021. During the storm event,

stationary air monitoring equipment was taken down and mobile air monitoring equipment was suspended. Air monitoring was resumed following the storm event.

### 2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

### 2.4 Finance Section

#### 2.4.1 Narrative

On 6/16/2021, U.S. EPA requested an FPN (E21510) to address the substantial threat of discharge of oil to a navigable waterway. U.S. EPA began charging 75% to CERCLA and 25% to the FPN starting 6/16.

#### Estimated Costs \*

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
<b>Extramural Costs</b>				
START	\$175,000.00	\$160,000.00	\$15,000.00	8.57%
<b>Intramural Costs</b>				
USEPA - Direct	\$25,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$5,000.00	20.00%
<b>Total Site Costs</b>	<b>\$200,000.00</b>	<b>\$180,000.00</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>	<b>10.00%</b>

\* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

### 2.5 Other Command Staff

#### 2.5.1 Safety Officer

The Lubrizol Fire department contractors are providing a safety officer

#### 2.5.2 Liaison Officer

Francisco Arcaut is fulfilling this role.

#### 2.5.3 Information Officer

EPA has a Public Information Officer established for this response

### 3. Participating Entities

#### 3.1 Unified Command

#### 3.2 Cooperating Agencies

EPA Region 5  
Illinois EPA  
Illinois Emergency Management Agency  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
US Chemical Safety Board  
Winnebago County Department of Public Health

### 4. Personnel On Site

EPA -2  
START -12  
Illinois EPA -2  
Lubrizol  
US Fire Pump  
Hepaco  
Environmental Restoration  
Clean Harbors  
CTEH  
EH Solutions

### 5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

### 6. Additional sources of information

#### 6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

[response.epa.gov/chemtoolfire](https://response.epa.gov/chemtoolfire)

#### 6.2 Reporting Schedule

It is anticipated that POLREPS will be provided at 24-hour intervals

### 7. Situational Reference Materials

[response.epa.gov/chemtoolfire](https://response.epa.gov/chemtoolfire)







